

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of discovering policies in an abstracted routing element comprising:

tapping ingress and egress information at a plurality of connections to the element,
filtering the ingress and egress information at the taps,
collecting the filtered ingress and egress information from the taps,
correlating the collected ingress and egress information, and
discovering policies used in the abstracted routing element from the correlated ingress and egress information, the discovered policies including damping policies that are discovered by i) analyzing the collected ingress information to detect flapping at an ingress point, and ii) analyzing the collected egress information to observe how an egress router reacts to the detected flapping.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1 where the abstracted routing element is an Autonomous System.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1 where the abstracted routing element is a combination of Autonomous Systems and networks.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1 where the policies discovered include routing policies.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 4 where the routing policies are discovered by comparing prefixes advertised at ingress points with prefixes disseminated at egress points.

Claims 6 & 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1 further including the step of:
comparing discovered policies with predetermined policies.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 further including the step of:
comparing discovered routing policies with predetermined routing policies.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 further including the step of:
comparing discovered damping policies with predetermined damping policies.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 1 further including access control providing limited access to discovered policies based on predetermined access classes.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 8 further including access control providing limited access to the comparison of discovered policies with predetermined policies based on predetermined access classes.